

DESCRIPTION OF BATHS, WITH EXHIBITION OF PHOTOGRAPHS AND DRAWINGS.

BY DR. RALPH L. PARSONS, OF SING SING.

ABSTRACT.

The following description of a bath-room and baths, after plans furnished by Dr. Simon Baruch, and carried out by Mr. Frank Richter, is submitted to the Society as of interest, because of the completeness and efficiency of the baths, and the novelty of some of the arrangements.

The room, which is twelve by fourteen feet and a half in size, is situated in a basement, is well lighted and is adjacent to other rooms suitable for the ice-water tank, dressing room and heating apparatus, and is convenient to a water supply having a pressure of forty pounds to the inch.

At one corner of the room there is a hot air bath heated by hot water coils. This can be arranged for a vapor bath, or a moliere bath also, as desired. A thermometer, the stem of which is outside the bath, indicates the degree of heat. A hot water boiler, holding a hundred and fifty gallons, and heated by a hot water heater in the laundry adjacent, is situated in another corner of the room. The third corner is occupied by the rain bath, the needle bath, the bidet and the station for the Scotch douche. The remaining corner is occupied by a marble table, under which the pipes for securing the desired temperature and pressure are arranged, and upon which are placed the thermometer, pressure gauge and also valves required for the baths, and also the pipes for the Scotch douche.

The floor of the room is of Portland cement, the ceiling is of iron and the walls are of brick, with the exception of the space back of the station for the Scotch douche, which is of marble. An ordinary bath tub is situated in the space between the hot water boiler and the needle bath. Valves for turning on the cold water are placed adjacent to the needle bath, so that a person

taking a needle bath by himself need not go to the table for the purpose of turning on the cold douche.

Diagrams and photographs illustrating the arrangement of the apparatus were exhibited.

In order to obtain the desired temperature and pressure for the needle bath the regulator is first opened; then the hot and the cold water valves are so turned as to produce the proper temperature; then the regulator is closed far enough to reduce the pressure to the desired force.

DISCUSSION.

Dr. ANGEL, of Rochester.—I am glad to see Dr. Parsons give his attention to the use of water in this way, and I was very much interested in the plan he has made to serve his purpose. I have had my attention somewhat attracted to the use of the cold douche with the force douche, such as Charcot and others have used in France with good effect, and I am always struck in many of these plans that there is no provision made for giving the large amount of water necessary. I believe they use a one-inch stream with a pressure of about thirty pounds graduated to circumstances. I do not know any one thing more valuable in the treatment of certain conditions, insomnia and neurathenia, than the douche. I have suggested to Dr. Howard that it would be a very valuable plan in the routine treatment of many phases of mental troubles, and I believe our asylums for the insane eventually will be provided with many of the hydro-therapeutical measures.

Dr. TOMLINSON, of St. Peter.—I have a bath-room in the hospital I have charge of that I have always considered to be a model and especially efficient, because it makes provision for the elimination of places for the accumulation of dirt; in other words, the plumbing is so done that there is nothing in the room except the necessary stop-cocks to turn the water on and off. The floors and walls are tiled, making an absolutely plain surface which cannot get dirty, and in that room we are able to give every form of bath known to medicine although the room is only 14x24 feet

Dr. PARSONS, of Sing Sing.—The pressure you have available is forty pounds, which is, of course, too much for most purposes.

Adjourned sine die at 1.05.